

Comment Form

STATE DEPARTMENT

Title: Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption; Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000; Accreditation of Agencies; Approval of Persons; Preservation of Convention Records; Extension of Comment Period
 Subject Category: Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000: Hague Convention-- Agency accreditation and person approval

Docket Id: RIN 1400-AA-88; 1400-AB-69

CFR Citation: 22 CFR 96, 98

Published: November 13, 2003 [FR Doc. 03-28544]

Comments Due: December 15, 2003

Phase: PROPOSED RULES

How To Comment:

Commenters may send hard copy submissions or comments in electronic format. Commenters sending only hard copies must send an original and two copies referencing docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA-29, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Hard copy comments may also be sent by overnight courier services to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Do not personally hand deliver comments to the Department of State. Comments referencing the docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 may be submitted electronically to adoptionregs@state.gov. Two hard copies of the comments submitted electronically must be mailed under separate cover as well. Electronic comments must be made in the text of the message or submitted as a Word file avoiding the use of any form of encryption or use of special characters. If you submit comments by hard copy rather than electronically, include a disk with the submission if possible. Hard copy submissions without an accompanying disk file, however, will be accepted.

Your comment has been sent. To verify that this agency has received your comment, please contact the agency directly. If you wish to retain a copy of your comment, print out a copy of this document for your files.

Please note your REGULATIONS.GOV number.

Regulations.gov #: EREG - 3

Date Submitted: Dec 11, 2003

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US

Comment

RE: 22CFR Parts 96 and 98 We are the parent of an adopted daughter. We adopted Rachel in 1995 from Romania. At the time, many of our friends and relatives did not understand why we would want to adopt a daughter - especially from Romania. Through adoption agencies and radio and television broadcasts, we became aware of the immense need for children who are abandoned to orphanages in Romania. Their future is very bleak, and they lack opportunities for a loving family, social development, and formal education. The parents who abandon these children are very poor and are unable to provide any support. They often cut off contact with their children completely, and these children are left to be raised by the state - completely alone. There are very few Romanian families that would or could adopt these children because of the economy of that country. The orphanages are also very poor, and only provide very basic life support for the children. When we were at the orphanage in Romania, we saw that there were no toys for the children to play with, and the walls were plain white - no color or stimulation for the children's minds. The children's clothes were too few, too old, too small, and too dirty. We offered to buy clothes, toys, and wall art for the orphanage, but we were told that the staff would steal the items and sell them to provide for their own family. We can't understand this because we have never been this poor - but it is their reality. We are now aware that there is a bill before you - 22CFR Parts 96 and 98. This bill, as we understand it, will make foreign adoptions much harder. The bill will add accrediting, auditing, insurance, budgeting and other regulations that will force adoption agencies to raise their rates drastically. It will close many agencies because of the huge burden this will put on them. In addition, adopting families, who already face high financial burdens, will be passed these costs, and the effect will be far fewer adoptions. Americans, who want to share their love and home, who are willing to do something very noble and good, will be prevented from an international adoption because of this bill. We commend the spirit of any bill that would provide for the best interests of children. If the intent of this bill is that, then fine. However, we need a bill that provides practical, affordable solutions that will not have the unintended affect of shutting down international adoptions or making them out of reach of average Americans. Please respond to us and let me know what your intention is for this bill. We am opposed to it and hope that you will consider this plea in your decision making process. Sincerely, Bob and Betsy Kenney 549 Harrison Bridge Rd Simpsonville, SC 29680 bobkenney@hotmail.com